GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2159
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
RE-INTRODUCTION OF CHEETAHS
Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, in principle, has approved a plan to re-introduce Cheetahs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified where these Cheetahs will be nurtured;

(c) the number of Cheetahs imported or being imported for this purpose along with the name of the country;

(d) the details of animals imported and died during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the time bound programme proposed to be implemented to increase their numbers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) No decision on reintroduction of Cheetah in India has been taken. However, a consultative meeting on Cheetah reintroduction in India was held in Gajner, Rajasthan on the 9th & 10th September 2009. It was organized by Wildlife Trust of India in collaboration with other conservation organizations. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Non Government Organizations, International Union for Conservation of Nature and International Cheetah experts, apart from Central and State Government officials. The important recommendation of the meeting was to conduct detailed surveys and analysis to ascertain habitat suitability, etc. for Cheetah reintroduction.

(c) No Cheetahs have been imported from any country for the purpose of reintroduction in wild. However, four number of African Cheetahs (2 male and 2 female) were acquired by the Sakkarbaug Zoo at Junagadh, Gujarat on 29-03-2009 from Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore, under the 'Zoo-to-Zoo Animal Exchange Programme'.

(d) There are no reports of death of Cheetah in Indian Zoos during the last three years.

(e) There is no such programme.